

# The Hawaiian Star, DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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FRANK L. HOOGS, MANAGER.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1906

## A Journalistic Triumph

The Star yesterday gave the people of Honolulu the first complete and detailed account of the terrible disaster to San Francisco that has been given. In its regular edition it published more than thirty columns of matter treating every phase of the earthquake, the fire that followed, the disorder, the suffering, the efforts at relief, the losses, of lives and property, the action by the President, the action taken by Mayor Schmitz, Governor Pardee, General Funston and other officials, civil and military. The action taken by the American people to meet the emergency was treated in considerable detail. The scientific aspect of the earthquake that caused the disaster was not overlooked. There were published stories of eyewitnesses, and accounts of many of the striking incidents, among the millions that must accompany such a great casualty.

Never before in Honolulu has any event of great news importance been so completely and so thoroughly handled. Never before has anything of the kind been handled with such promptness. The steamship Olympia was not sighted until about 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning. She was then off Koko Head. Representatives of The Star at once went out in launches to meet the steamship. The newspapers of Seattle and Tacoma containing voluminous accounts of the disaster were secured, and before the representative of a contemporary had left the Olympia, the Star's linotype machines were at work setting up accounts of the earthquake and fire. By 10 o'clock, an extra edition of The Star, containing a complete and more detailed account of the disaster than had yet been published in Honolulu concerning the great calamity, was on the street. From that time until after 6 o'clock in the evening the presses of The Star were kept going, practically continuously, to meet the demand for the news.

Knowing the intense and profound interest felt in every detail of the news, having complete and later files of the Seattle and Tacoma papers,—the only ones brought by the Olympia,—at that time, than any other newspaper in Honolulu, The Star determined to do everything possible to give the public all the news. Arrangements—long before in contemplation—were promptly made with the Gazette Company for the use of two of its linotype machines, giving The Star the use of a larger battery of linotypes than any single office in the city has, or than had ever before been put in the service of a Honolulu newspaper. The result was that The Star was able to issue at the regular hour in the afternoon, a twelve-page edition, containing more than thirty columns devoted to the San Francisco disaster.

There can be no doubt that this is the most important journalistic achievement up to this time ever scored in Honolulu.

The Star's record in connection with the news of the San Francisco disaster is one to be proud of.

It was the first to announce the great disaster, having an extra issue on the street with all the information then available, ahead of any of its competitors.

It was the first to publish further news concerning the disaster, following the long interruption of all communication, when dispatches finally began coming by way of New York and Europe, getting the Bottomley dispatch to Bishop & Co. from Glasgow and the Hackfeld dispatch from Bremen before the public in Extras ahead of any of its competitors.

It was the first to publish a complete and detailed account of the great disaster from the coast newspapers.

## Yesterday's Fateful News

It is clear from the detailed accounts The Star presented exclusively yesterday, that the disaster which has overtaken San Francisco is much more serious than we had begun to hope it would prove. As day by day the reports from Fraser were uniformly of persons safe and well, and as the meager cable reports kept the estimates of the dead down, the hope began to rise that the destruction was not so complete nor extensive as the first reports had seemed to indicate. It seemed impossible that a great city like San Francisco could have been almost wiped out by earthquake and fire, and still the number of the killed remain at the relatively low figures at which all estimates placed them. Then too, the cables day by day spoke of one building after another that had not been totally destroyed, or which was to be reconstructed or rebuilt. Throughout the news there has been the dominant note of confidence and determination to rebuild.

But the detailed and complete accounts received and published yesterday by The Star have taken away all such ground of hope. There remains only the hard heart-breaking fact that a calamity almost without parallel has overtaken the city by the Golden Gate; that thousands and thousands of her people are suffering and will suffer; that thousands and other thousands have lost all they had; that many in the evening of life look penury in the face; that suffering, under the best conditions must continue for a long time.

On the other side is the fact that men and women have risen to the need of the hour; that conditions have bred heroes and heroines. Brave men are facing the situation as it is, and are determined to do what brave men should.

Not in the suddenness and awfulness of the shock, but in the fatefulness of it, yesterday's news is almost as appalling as that of the morning of April 18.

## The Unrest In China

The San Francisco Chronicle thinks the much talked of troubles in China are really in the nature of an anti-dynastic movement. It says:

It has been repeatedly asserted that the anti-foreign movement in China is in reality a veil designed to conceal the anti-dynastic revolution which its leaders have planned and are preparing to carry out. Many things are occurring in and out of the empire which tend to confirm this theory. The anti-foreign movement is assumed to have been started by the Chinese reform societies, which have an extensive membership on this continent. These societies have been aiding and abetting the movement since its inception. They are strongly opposed to the present dynasty. The Chinese reform societies located in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, B. C., have, in fact, come boldly out in the open by presenting a joint petition to the Imperial Chinese Commissioners, who arrived at the Sound port, in which they call upon the Empress Dowager to abdicate and restore the Emperor to author-

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ity. The ground taken by the petitioners is that the Emperor has reached mature years and is competent to rule his people. The real reason for their desire to secure the abdication of the Empress Dowager is a belief that she is opposed to the introduction of any genuine reform in the empire, while the Emperor is assumed to be favorable to the adoption of such changes in the conduct of the affairs of state and in the political conditions of the people as their societies are endeavoring to obtain.

It will be remembered that the Boxer uprising, which sought to overthrow the Manchu dynasty, adopted similar tactics at its inception. While the Boxers waged open war on foreigners in the two provinces in which the insurrection occurred, the Government realized its own peril and the true purpose of the revolt. With characteristic artfulness, however, it first opposed the Boxers and afterward sided with them to secure its own safety. Possibly the Empress Dowager and her advisers may adopt the same tactics again, hoping thereby to save the dynasty from being overthrown as before. But the danger now threatening the dynasty and foreigners in China is more serious than it was at any time during the Boxer uprising, for the reason that the present anti-foreign crusade is not confined to the northern provinces only, but has extended all over the empire. Perhaps the only hope of stopping the movement is the abdication of the Empress Dowager in obedience to the demands of the reform societies.

There are not two sides to the question of whether a filtration plant is needed. Medical authority settles that matter and it is a public duty for Honolulu to get a plant just as soon as possible.

The mainland newspapers so far received here, of the dates following the San Francisco earthquake, do not indicate that there was much sleeping done by the Associated Press men in the stricken city. As before suggested, they worked Eastward, in the quickest available way, sending their news as fast as it could be obtained.

It is certainly true that there is lit-

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the danger of any innocent man being convicted in our courts. As for the escapes of the guilty, we ought to be used to it by this time.

The San Francisco earthquake seems likely to break all scientific records for the wideness of the area it affected. Th reports so far indicate that there were seismic disturbances recorded from Tokyo to Washington.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

(From the Public Ledger, Philadelphia)

There is a suspicion that Greene and Gaynor thought they were guilty even before the jury had taken them into its confidence.

Bourke Cockran complains of the "incoherence, discordance and dissonance of debate," and proceeds to contribute a quota of all these elements.

Of course, Mount Tacoma is reported active. It always has been so reported when there has been volcanic disturbance anywhere. The best evidence, however, tends to show that Tacoma has not been in eruption for at least 5000 years.

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